

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 DODE-00 OMB-01 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00

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R 251644Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS:CM

SUBJECT: 1/4 TON VEHICLES FOR CAMEROON

1. DEPT AND DOD RECALL THAT GURC ARMED FORCES HAVE SEVERAL TIMES EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN PURCHASING EXCESS QUARTER TON "JEEP" TRUCKS BUT HAS NOT YET FOUND SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT.

2. DOD HAS INFORMED US THAT CURRENTLY A NUMBER OF 1/4 TON JEEPS MODEL M38A1, M151, M151A1 AND M151A1C ARE EXCESS AND AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO MAP MATERIEL COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH CAMEROON IS NOT MAP MATERIEL COUNTRY, JEEPS COULD BE PURCHASED UNDER THE FMS PROGRAM ON A CASH BASIS "AS IS WHERE IS." THESE VEHICLES ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF CONDITION AND REQUIRE EXTENSIVE REPAIR OR REBUILD.

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3. GURC WOULD HAVE TO DEFRAY ALL COSTS OF REBUILD,

PACKING, CRATING, HANDLING, AND TRANSPORTATION TO REBUILD FACILITY AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO CAMEROON- ENGINES FOR THESE VEHICLES ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE WITHIN THE US SUPPORT SYSTEM.

4. REBUILD COULD ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN USA FACILITIES IN CONUS ON THE M151, M151A1 AND M151A1C MODELS. AT PRESENT THE REBUILD LINE IS NOT IN OPERATION. TO REACTIVATE LINE REBUILD ORDER FOR MINIMUM 150 VEHICLES WOULD BE NECESSARY. TOTAL FMS COST OF REBUILT VEHICLES WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY DOLS 2860 EACH.

5. WE GENERALLY DISCOURAGE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS PURCHASING USED VEHICLES. MANY OF THE VEHICLES OFFERED UNDER THE MAP EXCESS PROGRAM ARE IN POOR CONDITION AND ARE UNECONOMICAL TO REPAIR FOR COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT HAVE A SOPHISTICATED REPAIR/REBUILD FACILITY TO KEEP UP OLDER VEHICLES LIABLE TO FURTHER BREAKDOWN. CONSEQUENTLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THESE VEHICLES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR GURC. WOULD NORMALLY RECOMMEND GURC ACQUIRE NEW M151A2 VEHICLES CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT DOLS 3800 EACH, HOWEVER, NONE NOW AVAILABLE. WE WILL MONITOR FUTURE PRODUCTION AND WILL ADVISE IF NEW VEHICLES AGAIN BECOME AVAILABLE.

6. EMBASSY MIGHT WISH ASSIST GURC PURSUE MATTER THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. ROGERS

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